

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended and new claims 32-40 have been added.

Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

Revisions to the Title

The Examiner stated that the originally submitted title of the invention is non-descriptive, and required a new title. Accordingly, Applicant has revised the title to read -- Power Generation Apparatus Comprising Fuel Cell and Reforming Module --.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Keefer et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0142208. Applicants do not admit that Keefer is prior art and reserves the right to swear behind the reference at a later date. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that Keefer does not disclose each and every element of the invention as claimed in claim 1.

Keefer discloses an electrical current generating system that includes a fuel cell, a hydrogen gas separation system and means for recovering energy from the hydrogen gas separation system. The hydrogen gas separator further includes a pressure swing adsorption module. In addition, Keefer discloses that with a relatively high-pressure ratio between the higher and lower pressures in the pressure swing adsorption module, relatively high recovery of the fuel gas components in the light product gas (for recycle to the fuel cell anode) will be achieved.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A power generation apparatus comprising:

a fuel cell including an anode;

a reforming module, wherein the reforming module is adapted to reform hydrocarbon fuel into hydrogen and other components, and to separate said hydrogen from said other components, the apparatus being arranged so that said hydrogen is fed from the reforming module to the anode of the fuel cell;

a recycling arrangement to recycle hydrogen in the outflow stream of the anode of the fuel cell back to the anode; and

a controlling arrangement to control the amount of hydrogen recycled and to tap off hydrogen that is not recycled.

(Claim 1, as amended, emphasis added). Keefer that with a relatively high-pressure ratio between the higher and lower pressures in the pressure swing adsorption system, relatively high recovery of the fuel gas components in the light product gas (for recycle to the fuel cell anode) will be achieved. However, Keefer does not disclose how this pressure difference controls the amount of hydrogen gas recycled. In addition, Keefer does not disclose tapping off hydrogen. Thus, Keefer does not disclose "a controlling arrangement to control the amount of hydrogen recycled and to tap off hydrogen that is not recycled." Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Keefer.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 32-40. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32-39 are not anticipated by Keefer as these claims depend on claim 1.

Claim 40, recites:

A method of generating power and producing hydrogen comprising:
reforming hydrocarbon fuel into hydrogen and other components;
separating said hydrogen from said other components;
feeding said hydrogen to an anode of a fuel cell;
recycling hydrogen in an outflow stream of the anode of the fuel cell back to the anode;
controlling the amount of hydrogen recycled; and
tapping off hydrogen that is not recycled.

(Claim 1, emphasis added). Claim 40 recites "controlling the amount of hydrogen recycled" and "tapping off hydrogen that is not recycled." As per above, Keefer does not disclose either of these elements. Thus, Keefer does not anticipate claim 40.

SUMMARY


Claim 1 is currently pending. Claims 32-40 have been added. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims overcome the applicable rejections.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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